

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the applications.

Claims 1-22 (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) A sealing apparatus, comprising:

an elongated sealing member; and

an elongated receiver portion having at least one engagement aperture to receive the

sealing member, the receiver portion having an opening extending along a length

of the receiver portion, the opening being bracketed by first and second ridges that

extend along the length of the receiver portion, the opening providing access to

the engagement aperture, the receiver portion further having lugs, each lug having

a proximal and distal end, the distal end projecting that project generally

outwardly from the receiver portion and downwardly in the direction of the

opening of the receiver portion, said lugs provided at each location such that the

proximal end of each lug is proximate to one of said first and second ridges and

spaced apart from the opening, the lugs providing a gripping surface.

Claim 24 (Canceled).

25. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the elongated sealing member has a circular cross-section; and the engagement aperture of the receiver portion has an approximately circular cross-sectional shape that is configured to receive the sealing member.

26. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the receiver portion includes a handle that extends at least a portion of the length of the receiver portion and extends outwardly and upwardly from the receiver portion.
27. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the sealing member includes an opening that extends along a length of the sealing member and a lanyard that extends through the opening.
28. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 27, wherein the lanyard is further coupled to the receiver portion.
29. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, further comprising a flexible coupling member that couples the sealing member to the receiver portion.
30. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the sealing member and the receiver portion are formed of a resilient polymeric material.
31. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 30, wherein the resilient polymeric material includes a polyurethane.
32. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the sealing member and the receiver portion are formed of a generally flexible metallic material.

33. (Currently Amended) A sealing apparatus for sealing a bag, comprising:
an elongated receiver portion having at least one engagement aperture to receive an
elongated sealing member, the receiver portion having an opening extending
along a length of the receiver portion, the opening being bracketed by first and
second ridges that extend along the length of the receiver portion, the opening
providing access to the engagement aperture, the receiver portion further having
lugs, each lug having a proximal and distal end, the distal end projecting that
project generally outwardly from the receiver portion and downwardly in the
direction of the opening of the receiver portion, the proximal end of one of said
lugs provided at a location that is spaced apart from the opening and adjacent to
said first ridge, the proximal end of another of said lugs provided at a location that
is spaced apart from the opening and adjacent to said second ridge, the lugs
providing a gripping surface.

Claim 34 (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 33, wherein the elongated sealing
member has a circular cross-section and the engagement aperture of the receiver portion
has an approximately circular cross-sectional shape that is configured to receive the
sealing member.

36. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 33, wherein the receiver portion
includes a handle that extends at least a portion of the length of the receiver portion and
projects outwardly and upwardly from the receiver portion.

37. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 33, wherein the sealing member includes an opening that extends along a length of the sealing member and a lanyard formed into a loop that extends through the opening.
38. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 37, wherein the lanyard is further coupled to the receiver portion.
39. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 33, further comprising a flexible coupling member that couples the sealing member to the receiver portion.
40. (Currently Amended) A method for sealing a resealable bag, the method comprising:
providing an apparatus having an elongated sealing member and an elongated receiver portion, the elongated receiver portion having at least one engagement aperture to receive the elongated sealing member and having an opening extending along a length of the receiver portion, the opening being bracketed by first and second ridges that extend along the length of the receiver portion, the opening providing access to the engagement aperture, the receiver portion further having lugs, each lug having a proximal and distal end, the distal end projecting that project generally outwardly from the receiver portion and downwardly in the direction of the opening of the receiver portion, said lugs provided at a location such that the proximal end of each lug is spaced apart from the opening and proximate to one of the ridges, the lugs providing a gripping surface;
positioning a portion of the resealable bag proximate to the engagement aperture;

positioning the sealing member proximate to the portion of the resealable bag and the engagement aperture; and

pressing the sealing member into the engagement aperture of the receiver portion with the portion of the resealable bag interposed between the sealing member and the receiver portion.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the step of positioning a portion of the resealable bag proximate to the engagement aperture further comprises positioning an opening portion of the resealable bag proximate to the engagement aperture.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the step of pressing the sealing member into the engagement aperture of the receiver portion further comprises closing the resealable bag to form a hermetic seal.